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Title : Madam Speaker made Valedictory Reference on the conclusion of the 2nd Session of the 15th Lok Sabha.

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Second Session of the Fifteenth Lok Sabha, which commenced on 2nd July, 2009 is coming to a close today.

During the Session, which is the first Budget Session of the 15th Lok Sabha, we had 26 sittings spread over 162 hours.

The Budget (Railways) and the Budget (General) for the year 2009-2010, were presented on 3rd and 6th July, 2009 respectively.

The House had a structured discussion on the Budget (Railways) for 2009-2010 lasting for 17 hours and 57 minutes in which 197 members participated. *As* the Departmentally Related Standing Committees have not yet been constituted, the Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2009-2010 were voted after a motion regarding suspension of rule 331G was adopted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also had combined discussion lasting over 17 hours and 12 minutes on the Budget (General) for 2009-2010 and Demands for Excess Grants (General), 2006-2007, before the said Demands were voted and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Demands for Grants for 2009-2010, in respect of the Ministries of Human Resource Development, Agriculture and Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Power, Home Affairs and Women and Child Development were discussed, after adoption of a motion for suspension of Rule 33IG, for 31 hours and 18 minutes before being voted in full. All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 2009-2010 of the remaining Ministries were submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 23rd July, 2009 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Budget in respect of State of Jharkhand for the year 2009-2010 was presented to Lok Sabha on 8th July, 2009. A combined discussion on the motion

for revocation of President's Rule in Jharkhand and Statutory Resolution for extension of President's Rule in the State along with the Budget in respect of the State of Jharkhand for 2009-2010 and Demands for Grants (Jharkhand) 2009-2010 were taken up. After discussion, the Motion for revocation of President's Rule in Jharkhand was put to vote and negatived and the Statutory Resolution was adopted. The Demands for Grants were voted in full and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The House also discussed the Finance Bill, 2009 for about 9 hours and 49 minutes before it was passed to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 2009-2010.

During the Session, 16 Bills were introduced and 8 Bills were passed. Some of the important Bills passed were the Constitution (One Hundred and Ninth Amendment) Bill, 2009 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Bill, 2009.

During the Session, 500 starred questions were listed, out of which 87 Questions could be answered orally. Thus, on an average, about 3.34 Questions could be answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions along with 4894 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table.

About 280 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the Members after the Question Hour and by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 322 matters under the Rule 377.

The House also had four short duration discussions under rule 193 on subjects of urgent public importance, namely, (i) the situation arising out of rapid spread of swine flu in the country; (ii) the situation arising out of drought and floods in various parts of the country; (iii) the issues arising out of Prime Minister's recent visit to foreign countries and (iv) the rise in prices of essential commodities. While the discussion on swine flu remained inconclusive, the other three discussions were concluded with the reply of the concerned Ministers.

During the Session, three important matters were raised by way of Calling Attention, namely (i) need to check the pollution in rivers and lakes in the country; (ii) situation arising out of large-scale loss of jobs due to retrenchment and closure of industries, including IT sector; and (iii) situation arising due to export of non-Basmati rice to certain countries in violation of Government guidelines. In response to these Calling Attention notices concerned Ministers made statements and replied to the clarifications of the Members. As many as 39 statements were made by the Ministers on various other important subjects,

including a statement by the hon. Prime Minister on his foreign visits to Italy, France and Egypt and five statements by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business.

Coming to the Private Members' Bills, 30 Private Members' Bills were introduced during the Session. One Bill, namely the Underdeveloped and Backward Areas and Regions (Special Provisions for Accelerated Development) Bill, 2009 moved by Shri Baijayant Panda remained part discussed.

A Private Members' Resolution regarding constitution of National Board for the Development of Himalayan States moved by Shri Virender Kashyap was discussed for 4 hours 38 minutes and was thereafter withdrawn with the leave of the House. Another resolution regarding steps to ensure availability of drinking water in the country moved by Shri Satpal Maharaj on 10th July, 2009 remained part discussed.

In this Session, while we lost over 23 hours 34 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, I am happy to inform that the House also sat late for 30 hours and 52 minutes to transact important financial and other business for which I thank the Members. This amply demonstrates the commitment of hon. Members to the welfare of our people. This House is the supreme representative body of the people which should properly reflect their aspirations. Debate and discussions alone are the proper methods to focus the attention of the Government and the nation on the problems of the people. If the business of the House is disrupted, it is the people we represent who suffer. I firmly believe that we have no right to do that. I would, therefore, take this opportunity to appeal to the hon. Members to spare no efforts to see that the business of the House is not disrupted for any reason. Enough opportunities are available for orderly discussion of issues concerning the people.

I would like to thank the hon. Deputy Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their cooperation in the completion of business of the House. I am extremely grateful to the hon. Prime Minister; the Leader of the House, the Leader of Opposition, the Chairperson of UPA; the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs; Leaders of various parties and groups as well as the Chief Whips apart from the hon. Members for their cooperation.

I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the media. I take this opportunity to compliment the Secretary-General for the competent and expert assistance being rendered to me. I thank the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House.

15.20 hrs.

NATIONAL SONG

MADAM SPEAKER: Hon. Members may now stand up as *Vande Mataram* would be played.

(*The National Song was played.*)

15.21 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.